

HOUSE RESOLUTION 187

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor Janice Webb Fostek upon the occasion of her induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2006, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting twelve worthy people into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the walking horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2006 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Janice Webb Fostek, who is renowned and respected throughout the walking horse industry, and has enjoyed a lifelong career as an exhibitor and supporter of the Celebration; and

WHEREAS, Janice Webb was born and raised on a farm in Roanoke, Virginia, where her family enjoyed riding saddle bred pleasure horses. As a teenager, she became interested in showing horses, and her family was attracted to the smooth gait of the Tennessee Walking Horse. She studied horsemanship and equitation under the late Joe Gibbs of Martinsville, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Janice Fostek made her first appearance at the Celebration in 1970 under the direction of Bud Dunn, and through the years she has won multiple World championships and Reserve World championships; her most recent World Grand championship was aboard the popular *I'm Willie Wonka*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fostek was deservedly inducted into the Walking Horse Trainer's Association Friendship Club in 2000. Several of Ms. Fostek's horses have been voted Horse of the Year by the Walking Horse Trainers Association and the *Walking Horse Report* Readers' Polls; she has served on the Celebration Advisory Board, is a former board member of the Virginia Walking Horse Association, and is a sponsor for the Celebration, the Trainer's Show, and the International; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her devotion to horses, Ms. Fostek studied classical guitar at the Kittinger School of Music; she attended East Tennessee State University and later joined the family business of Webb's Oil Corporation, which she has served as President since 1990; and

WHEREAS, Janice Fostek is also a sponsor and former board member of Roanoke Valley Therapeutic Riding, Inc.; she serves on the Wachovia National Bank advisory board, and is a former board member of the National Association of Women Business Owners; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fostek enjoys the loving companionship of her husband Joseph P. Fostek, III; they reside in Roanoke, North Carolina, and Greensboro, North Carolina, where Mr. Fostek is President of J & M Recycling and Consulting, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, by means of her induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Janice Webb Fostek has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to her life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FORTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Janice Webb Fostek on the occasion of her induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, as we salute her stalwart devotion to the walking horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with the final clause omitted from such copy.